State of Arizona Senate Forty-seventh Legislature First Regular Session 2005

CHAPTER 205

SENATE BILL 1352

AN ACT

AMENDING SECTIONS 15-701.01, 15-761 AND 15-763, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES; RELATING TO SPECIAL EDUCATION.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

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43 44 Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Arizona: Section 1. Section 15-701.01, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to read:

15-701.01. <u>High school; graduation; requirements; community college or university courses; transfer from private schools; academic credit</u>

- A. The state board of education shall:
- 1. Prescribe a minimum course of study, as defined in section 15-101 and incorporating the academic standards adopted by the state board of education, for the graduation of pupils from high school.
- 2. Prescribe competency requirements for the graduation of pupils from high school incorporating the academic standards in at least the areas of reading, writing, mathematics, science and social studies.
- Develop and adopt competency tests for the graduation of pupils from high school in at least the areas of reading, writing and mathematics and shall establish passing scores for each such test. IF THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION ADOPTS A COMPETENCY TEST AS A GRADUATION REQUIREMENT FOR A CHILD WITH A DISABILITY AS DEFINED IN SECTION 15-761 OR A CHILD WHO RECEIVES SPECIAL EDUCATION PURSUANT TO SECTION 15-763, PUPILS WITH INDIVIDUALIZED EDUCATION PROGRAMS SHALL NOT BE REQUIRED TO ACHIEVE PASSING SCORES ON COMPETENCY TESTS IN ORDER TO GRADUATE FROM HIGH SCHOOL UNLESS THE PUPIL IS LEARNING AT A LEVEL APPROPRIATE FOR THE PUPIL'S GRADE LEVEL IN A SPECIFIC ACADEMIC AREA AND UNLESS PASSING SCORES ON A COMPETENCY TEST IS SPECIFICALLY REQUIRED IN A SPECIFIC ACADEMIC AREA BY THE PUPIL'S INDIVIDUALIZED EDUCATION PROGRAM AS MUTUALLY AGREED ON BY THE PUPIL'S PARENTS AND THE PUPIL'S INDIVIDUALIZED EDUCATION PROGRAM TEAM OR THE PUPIL, IF THE PUPIL IS AT LEAST THESE COMPETENCY TESTS SHALL BE ADMINISTERED TO EIGHTEEN YEARS OF AGE. PUPILS IN A MANNER PRESCRIBED IN THE PUPIL'S INDIVIDUALIZED EDUCATION PROGRAM AND SCHOOL DISTRICTS AND CHARTER SCHOOLS SHALL MAKE SPECIFIC AND APPROPRIATE ACCOMMODATIONS FOR PUPILS WITH INDIVIDUALIZED EDUCATION PROGRAMS. WITH SECTION 504 PLANS AS DEFINED IN SECTION 15-731 SHALL NOT BE REQUIRED TO ACHIEVE PASSING SCORES ON COMPETENCY TESTS IN ORDER TO GRADUATE FROM HIGH SCHOOL UNLESS THE PUPIL IS LEARNING AT A LEVEL APPROPRIATE FOR THE PUPIL'S GRADE LEVEL IN A SPECIFIC ACADEMIC AREA AND UNLESS PASSING SCORES ON A COMPETENCY TEST IS SPECIFICALLY REQUIRED IN A SPECIFIC ACADEMIC AREA BY THE PUPIL'S SECTION 504 PLAN THAT IS DEVELOPED IN CONSULTATION WITH THE PUPIL'S PARENTS. THESE COMPETENCY TESTS SHALL BE ADMINISTERED TO PUPILS IN A MANNER PRESCRIBED IN THE PUPIL'S SECTION 504 PLAN AND SCHOOL DISTRICTS AND CHARTER SCHOOLS SHALL MAKE SPECIFIC AND APPROPRIATE ACCOMMODATIONS FOR PUPILS WITH A SECTION 504 PLAN. A PUPIL WITH AN INDIVIDUALIZED EDUCATION PROGRAM OR A SECTION 504 PLAN WHO GRADUATES FROM HIGH SCHOOL BUT WHO IS NOT REQUIRED TO ACHIEVE A PASSING SCORE ON A COMPETENCY TEST IN ORDER TO GRADUATE FROM HIGH SCHOOL SHALL RECEIVE THE STANDARD DIPLOMA ISSUED BY THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OR CHARTER SCHOOL.

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- B. The governing board of a school district shall:
- 1. Prescribe curricula that include the academic standards in the required subject areas pursuant to subsection A, paragraph 1 of this section.
- 2. Prescribe criteria for the graduation of pupils from the high schools in the school district. These criteria shall include accomplishment of the academic standards in at least reading, writing, mathematics, science and social studies, as determined by district assessment. Other criteria may include additional measures of academic achievement and attendance.
- C. The governing board may prescribe the course of study and competency requirements for the graduation of pupils from high school which are in addition to or higher than the course of study and competency requirements which the state board prescribes.
- D. The governing board may prescribe competency requirements for the passage of pupils in courses which are required for graduation from high school.
- E. A teacher shall determine whether to pass or fail a pupil in a course in high school as provided in section 15-521, paragraph 3 on the basis of the competency requirements, if any have been prescribed. The governing board, if it reviews the decision of a teacher to pass or fail a pupil in a course in high school as provided in section 15-342, paragraph 11, shall base its decision on the competency requirements, if any have been prescribed.
- F. Graduation requirements established by the governing board may be met by a pupil who passes courses in the required or elective subjects at a community college or university, if the course is at a higher level than the course taught in the high school attended by the pupil or, if the course is not taught in the high school, the level of the course is equal to or higher than the level of a high school course. The governing board shall determine if the subject matter of the community college or university course is appropriate to the specific requirement the pupil intends it to fulfill and if the level of the community college or university course is less than, equal to or higher than a high school course, and the governing board shall award one-half of a carnegie unit for each three semester hours of credit the pupil earns in an appropriate community college or university course. pupil is not satisfied with the decision of the governing board regarding the amount of credit granted or the subjects for which credit is granted, the pupil may request that the state board of education review the decision of the governing board, and the state board shall make the final determination of the amount of credit to be given the pupil and for which subjects. governing board shall not limit the number of credits THAT IS required for high school graduation which AND THAT may be met by taking community college or university courses. For the purposes of this subsection:
- 1. "Community college" means an educational institution that is operated by a community college district as defined in section 15-1401 or a postsecondary educational institution under the jurisdiction of an Indian tribe recognized by the United States department of the interior.

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- 2. "University" means a university under the jurisdiction of the Arizona board of regents.
- G. A pupil who transfers from a private school shall be provided with a list that indicates those credits that have been accepted and denied by the school district. A pupil may request to take an examination in each particular course in which credit has been denied. The school district shall accept the credit for each particular course in which the pupil takes an examination and receives a passing score on a test designed and evaluated by a teacher in the school district who teaches the subject matter on which the examination is based. In addition to the above requirements, the governing board of a school district may prescribe requirements for the acceptance of the credits of pupils who transfer from a private school.
- H. The state board of education shall adopt rules to allow high school pupils who can demonstrate competency in a particular academic course or subject to obtain academic credit for the course or subject without enrolling in the course or subject.
 - Sec. 2. Section 15-761, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to read: 15-761. Definitions

In this article, unless the context otherwise requires:

- 1. "Autism" means a developmental disability that significantly affects verbal and nonverbal communication and social interaction and that adversely affects educational performance. Characteristics include irregularities and impairments in communication, engagement in repetitive activities and stereotyped movements, resistance to environmental change or change in daily routines and unusual responses to sensory experiences. Autism does not include children with characteristics of emotional disability as defined in this section.
- 2. "Child with a disability" means a child who is at least three years but less than twenty-two years of age, who has been evaluated pursuant to section 15-766 and found to have at least one of the following disabilities and who, because of the disability, needs special education and related services:
 - (a) Autism.
 - (b) Emotional disability.
 - (c) Hearing impairment.
 - (d) Other health impairments.
 - (e) Specific learning disability.
 - (f) Mild, moderate or severe mental retardation.
 - (g) Multiple disabilities.
 - (h) Multiple disabilities with severe sensory impairment.
 - (i) Orthopedic impairment.
 - (j) Preschool moderate delay.
- 43 (k) Preschool severe delay.
- 44 (1) Preschool speech/language delay.
 - (m) Speech/language impairment.

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- (n) Traumatic brain injury.
- (o) Visual impairment.
- 3. "Educational disadvantage" means a condition which has limited a child's opportunity for educational experience resulting in a child achieving less than a normal level of learning development.
- 4. "Eligibility for special education" means the pupil must have one of the disabilities contained in paragraph 2 of this section and must also require special education services in order to benefit from an educational program.
 - 5. "Emotional disability":
- (a) Means a condition whereby a child exhibits one or more of the following characteristics over a long period of time and to a marked degree that adversely affects the child's performance in the educational environment:
- (i) An inability to learn which cannot be explained by intellectual, sensory or health factors.
- (ii) An inability to build or maintain satisfactory interpersonal relationships with peers and teachers.
- (iii) Inappropriate types of behavior or feelings under normal circumstances.
 - (iv) A general pervasive mood of unhappiness or depression.
- (v) A tendency to develop physical symptoms or fears associated with personal or school problems.
- (b) Includes children who are schizophrenic but does not include children who are socially maladjusted unless they are also determined to have an emotional disability as determined by evaluation as provided in section 15-766.
- 6. "Exceptional child" means a gifted child or a child with a disability.
- 7. "Foster parent" means a person who has been designated by a court of competent jurisdiction to serve as the parent of a child with a disability if that person has an ongoing, long-term parental relationship with the child, is willing to make educational decisions for the child and has no personal interest that would conflict with the interests of the child.
- 8. "Gifted child" means a child who is of lawful school age, who due to superior intellect or advanced learning ability, or both, is not afforded an opportunity for otherwise attainable progress and development in regular classroom instruction and who needs special instruction or special ancillary services, or both, to achieve at levels commensurate with the child's intellect and ability.
- 9. "Hearing impairment" means a loss of hearing acuity, as determined by evaluation pursuant to section 15-766, which interferes with the child's performance in the educational environment and requires the provision of special education and related services.

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- 10. "Home school district" means the school district in which the person resides who has legal custody of the child, as provided in section 15-824, subsection B. If the child is a ward of the state and a specific person does not have legal custody of the child, the home school district is the district that the child last attended or, if the child has not previously attended a public school in this state, the school district within which the child currently resides.
- 11. "Individualized education program" means a written statement, as defined in 20 United States Code sections 1401 and 1412, for providing special education services to a child with a disability that includes the pupil's present levels of educational performance, the measurable annual goals and short-term objectives or benchmarks for evaluating progress toward those goals, THE REQUIREMENTS FOR HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION, INCLUDING PROVISIONS FOR TESTING AND TESTING ACCOMMODATIONS, and the specific special education and related services to be provided.
- 12. "Individualized education program team" means a team whose task is to develop an appropriate educational program for the child and that includes:
 - (a) The parent.
 - (b) At least one of the child's regular education teachers.
 - (c) One of the child's special education teachers.
- (d) A representative of the public agency that is qualified to provide or supervise the provision of instruction that is designed specifically for children with disabilities who is knowledgeable about general curriculum and the availability of resources.
- (e) A person who can interpret the instructional implications of evaluation results.
 - (f) The child, if appropriate.
- (g) At the discretion of the parent or the public agency, other persons with knowledge or special expertise about the child.
- 13. "Mental retardation" means a significant impairment of general intellectual functioning that exists concurrently with deficits in adaptive behavior and that adversely affects the child's performance in the educational environment.
- 14. "Mild mental retardation" means performance on standard measures of intellectual and adaptive behavior between two and three standard deviations below the mean for children of the same age.
- 15. "Moderate mental retardation" means performance on standard measures of intellectual and adaptive behavior between three and four standard deviations below the mean for children of the same age.
- 16. "Multidisciplinary evaluation team" means a team of persons including individuals described as the individualized education program team and other qualified professionals who shall determine whether a child is eligible for special education.

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- 17. "Multiple disabilities" means learning and developmental problems resulting from multiple disabilities as determined by evaluation pursuant to section 15-766 that cannot be provided for adequately in a program designed to meet the needs of children with less complex disabilities. Multiple disabilities include any of the following conditions that require the provision of special education and related services:
 - (a) Two or more of the following conditions:
 - (i) Hearing impairment.
 - (ii) Orthopedic impairment.
 - (iii) Moderate mental retardation.
 - (iv) Visual impairment.
- (b) A child with a disability listed in subdivision (a) of this paragraph existing concurrently with a condition of mild mental retardation, emotional disability or specific learning disability.
- 18. "Multiple disabilities with severe sensory impairment" means multiple disabilities that include at least one of the following:
- (a) Severe visual impairment or severe hearing impairment in combination with another severe disability.
 - (b) Severe visual impairment and severe hearing impairment.
- 19. "Orthopedic impairment" means one or more severe orthopedic impairments and includes those that are caused by congenital anomaly, disease and other causes, such as amputation or cerebral palsy, and that adversely affect a child's performance in the educational environment.
- 20. "Other health impairments" means limited strength, vitality or alertness, including a heightened alertness to environmental stimuli, due to chronic or acute health problems which adversely affect a pupil's educational performance.
- 21. "Out-of-home care" means the placement of a child with a disability outside of the home environment and includes twenty-four hour residential care, group care or foster care on either a full-time or part-time basis.
- 22. "Parent" means the natural or adoptive parent of a child, the legal guardian of a child, a relative with whom a child resides and who is acting as the parent of that child, a surrogate parent who has been appointed for a child pursuant to section 15-763.01 or a foster parent as defined in this section.
- 23. "Preschool child" means a child who is at least three years of age but who has not reached the required age for kindergarten, subject to section 15-771, subsection G.
- 24. "Preschool moderate delay" means performance by a preschool child on a norm-referenced test that measures at least one and one-half, but not more than three, standard deviations below the mean for children of the same chronological age in two or more of the following areas:
 - (a) Cognitive development.
 - (b) Physical development.
 - (c) Communication development.

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- (d) Social or emotional development.
- (e) Adaptive development.

The results of the norm-referenced measure must be corroborated by information from a comprehensive developmental assessment and from parental input, if available, as measured by a judgment based assessment or survey. If there is a discrepancy between the measures, the evaluation team shall determine eligibility based on a preponderance of the information presented.

- 25. "Preschool severe delay" means performance by a preschool child on a norm-referenced test that measures more than three standard deviations below the mean for children of the same chronological age in one or more of the following areas:
 - (a) Cognitive development.
 - (b) Physical development.
 - (c) Communication development.
 - (d) Social or emotional development.
 - (e) Adaptive development.

The results of the norm-referenced measure must be corroborated by information from a comprehensive developmental assessment and from parental input, if available, as measured by a judgment based assessment or survey. If there is a discrepancy between the measures, the evaluation team shall determine eligibility based on a preponderance of the information presented.

- 26. "Preschool speech/language delay" means performance by a preschool child on a norm-referenced language test that measures at least one and one-half standard deviations below the mean for children of the same chronological age or whose speech, out of context, is unintelligible to a listener who is unfamiliar with the child. Eligibility under this paragraph is appropriate only if a comprehensive developmental assessment or norm-referenced assessment and parental input indicate that the child is not eligible for services under another preschool category. The evaluation team shall determine eligibility based on a preponderance of the information presented.
- 27. "Prior written notice" means notice, as defined in 20 United States Code sections 1414 and 1415, that includes a description of the action proposed or refused by the school, an explanation of why the school proposes or refuses to take the action, a description of any options the school considered and the reasons why those options were rejected, a description of each evaluation procedure, test, record or report the school used as a basis for the proposal or refusal, a description of any other factors that were relevant to the school's proposal or refusal, a full explanation of all of the procedural safeguards available to the parent and a listing of sources for parents to contact to obtain assistance in understanding the notice.
- 28. "Related services" means those supportive services, as defined in 20 United States Code section 1401, that are required to assist a child with

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a disability who is eligible to receive special education services in order for the child to benefit from special education.

- 29. "Residential special education placement" means the placement of a child with a disability in a public or private residential program, as provided in section 15-765, subsection G, in order to provide necessary special education and related services as specified in the child's individualized education program.
- 30. "Severe mental retardation" means performance on standard measures of intellectual and adaptive behavior measures at least four standard deviations below the mean for children of the same age.
- 31. "Special education" means the adjustment of the environmental factors, modification of the course of study and adaptation of teaching methods, materials and techniques to provide educationally for those children who are gifted or disabled to such an extent that they need specially designed instruction in order to receive educational benefit. Difficulty in writing, speaking or understanding the English language due to an environmental background wherein a language other than English is spoken primarily or exclusively shall not be considered a disability that requires special education.
- 32. "Special education referral" means a written request for an evaluation to determine whether a pupil is eligible for special education services that, for referrals not initiated by a parent, includes documentation of appropriate efforts to educate the pupil in the regular education program.
 - 33. "Specific learning disability":
- (a) Means a specific learning disorder in one or more of the basic psychological processes involved in understanding or in using language, spoken or written, which may manifest itself in an imperfect ability to listen, think, speak, read, write, spell or do mathematical calculations.
- (b) Includes such conditions as perceptual disabilities, minimal brain dysfunction, dyslexia and aphasia.
- (c) Does not include learning problems which are primarily the result of visual, hearing, motor or emotional disabilities, of mental retardation or of environmental, cultural or economic disadvantage.
- 34. "Speech/language impairment" means a communication disorder such as stuttering, impaired articulation, severe disorders of syntax, semantics or vocabulary, or functional language skills, or a voice impairment, as determined by evaluation pursuant to section 15-766, to the extent that it calls attention to itself, interferes with communication or causes a child to be maladjusted.
- 35. "State placing agency" has the same meaning prescribed in section 15–1181.
- 36. "Surrogate parent" means a person who has been appointed by the court pursuant to section 15-763.01 in order to represent a child in decisions regarding special education.

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- 37. "Traumatic brain injury":
- (a) Means an acquired injury to the brain that is caused by an external physical force and that results in total or partial functional disability or psychosocial impairment, or both, that adversely affects educational performance.
- (b) Applies to open or closed head injuries resulting in mild, moderate or severe impairments in one or more areas, including cognition, language, memory, attention, reasoning, abstract thinking, judgment, problem solving, sensory, perceptual and motor abilities, psychosocial behavior, physical functions, information processing and speech.
- (c) Does not include brain injuries that are congenital or degenerative or brain injuries induced by birth trauma.
- 38. "Visual impairment" means a loss in visual acuity or a loss of visual field, as determined by evaluation pursuant to section 15-766, that interferes with the child's performance in the educational environment and that requires the provision of special education and related services.
 - Sec. 3. Section 15-763, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to read: 15-763. Plan for providing special education; definition
- A. All school districts and charter schools shall develop policies and procedures for providing special education to all children with disabilities within the district or charter school. All children with disabilities shall receive special education programming commensurate with their abilities and needs. Each child shall be ensured access to the general curriculum and an opportunity to meet the state's academic standards. PUPILS WHO RECEIVE SPECIAL EDUCATION SHALL NOT BE REQUIRED TO ACHIEVE PASSING SCORES ON THE ARIZONA INSTRUMENT TO MEASURE STANDARDS TEST IN ORDER TO GRADUATE FROM HIGH SCHOOL UNLESS THE PUPIL IS LEARNING AT A LEVEL APPROPRIATE FOR THE PUPIL'S GRADE LEVEL IN A SPECIFIC ACADEMIC AREA AND UNLESS A PASSING SCORE ON THE ARIZONA INSTRUMENT TO MEASURE STANDARDS TEST IS SPECIFICALLY REQUIRED IN A SPECIFIC ACADEMIC AREA BY THE PUPIL'S INDIVIDUALIZED EDUCATION PROGRAM AS MUTUALLY AGREED ON BY THE PUPIL'S PARENTS AND THE PUPIL'S INDIVIDUALIZED EDUCATION PROGRAM TEAM OR THE PUPIL, IF THE PUPIL IS AT LEAST EIGHTEEN YEARS THE PUPIL'S INDIVIDUALIZED EDUCATION PROGRAM SHALL INCLUDE ANY Special education services shall be NECESSARY TESTING ACCOMMODATIONS. provided at no cost to the parents of children with disabilities.
- B. THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION SHALL ADOPT GUIDELINES TO DEFINE A PARENT'S OR GUARDIAN'S ROLE OR A PUPIL'S ROLE, IF THE PUPIL IS AT LEAST EIGHTEEN YEARS OF AGE, IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF A PUPIL'S SECTION 504 PLAN AS DEFINED IN SECTION 15-731, INCLUDING TESTING AND TESTING ACCOMMODATIONS.
- B. C. For the purposes of determining the services to pupils served by private schools under existing federal law, the state shall consider the term to include home schooled pupils.

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C. D. If federal monies are provided to a school district or a charter school for special education services to home schooled or private schooled pupils, the school district or charter school shall provide the services to both the home schooled pupils and the private schooled pupils in the same manner.

 $\ensuremath{\text{D.}}$ E. For the purposes of this section, "special education" has the same meaning prescribed in section 15-1201.

APPROVED BY THE GOVERNOR APRIL 25, 2005.

FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE APRIL 25, 2005.

Passed the House <u>April 13</u> , 20 <u>05</u> ,	Passed the Senate March 10, 2005,
by the following vote: 57 Ayes,	by the following vote: 29 Ayes,
	Nays, Not Voting
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Secretary of State

SENATE CONCURS IN HOUSE AMENDMENTS AND FINAL PASSAGE

	Passed the Senate Spril 19, 2005,
	by the following vote: 28 Ayes,
	Nays, Not Voting
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Governor of Arizona	EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT OF ARIZONA OFFICE OF SECRETARY OF STATE
	This Bill was received by the Secretary of State
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	price K. Brewer